

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 LAB-04 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10
NSAE-00 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 SIL-01
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R 172318Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6547

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05420

USOECD

PASS LABOR FOR METCALF AND FELDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD WORKING PARTY ON EMPLOYMENT, FEB. 9-10

SUMMARY - THE TWO MAJOR REPORTS ON THE AGENDA WERE:
(1) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1976 RECOMMENDATION ON A
GENERAL EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICY AND (2) A MEDIUM-
TERM STRATEGY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICIES.
BOTH DOCUMENTS EVOKED A LENGTHY AND INTERESTING DIS-
CUSSION. US DEL HEADED BY JAMES METCALF ACCOMPANIED
BY LLOYD FELDMAN, DOL. END SUMMARY.

1. IMPLEMENTING 1976 RECOMMENDATION
THE WORKING PARTY CONCENSUS WAS THAT THE REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1976 RECOMMENDATION ON A GENERAL
EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICY WAS A GOOD EFFORT BUT,
AS IT WAS BASED ON COUNTRY REPORTS WHICH WERE SUBMITTED
IN THE SPRING OF 1976, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE CHANGES IN
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS INTRODUCED IN RECENT MONTHS.
WHERE FEASIBLE IT WAS AGREED THE SECRETARIAT WOULD TRY
TO DO SOME LIMITED UPDATING BUT IT WAS ALSO AGREED
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THAT THE REPORT MUST STAND ON THE 1977 COUNTRY REPORTS
AND OTHER MEANS WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO REPORT MORE
FULLY ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

2. THE U.S., SUPPORTED BY FRANCE AND SWEDEN, ARGUED
THAT IN GENERALIZING FOR THE OECD AREA AS A WHOLE THE
SECRETARIAT HAD FAILED TO GIVE PROPER RECOGNITION TO

THE IMPRESSIVE SUCCESS OF SELECTIVE POLICIES TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT IN SOME MEMBER COUNTRIES (INCLUDING THE U.S.). THE U.S. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS SUPPORTED THE CONTENTION OF SWEDEN THAT THE REPORT ATTEMPTED TO DRAW TOO FINE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN SELECTIVE POLICIES TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT AND MORE GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICIES TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT (I.E., MORE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEED TO CLOSELY INTEGRATE THESE POLICIES AND IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT SELECTIVE POLICIES DO STIMULATE DEMAND). SEVERAL DELEGATIONS INCLUDING THE U.S. ASKED FOR MORE EMPHASIS IN THE REPORT ON VIEWS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME SELECTIVE MEASURES MAY CREATE EMPLOYMENT WITH A LOWER INFLATIONARY IMPACT PER JOB CREATED THAN IS THE CASE WITH GENERAL FISCAL STIMULATION. A NUMBER OF SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WANTED THE REPORT TO INDICATE MORE CLEARLY THAT SUCCESS OF THEIR SELECTIVE POLICIES HAD BEEN LIMITED BECAUSE TOTAL DEMAND IN THE OECD AREA HAD EXPANDED MORE SLOWLY THAN EXPECTED. MOST OF THE OTHER POINTS RAISED CONCERNED APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE DETAILED ANALYSIS AND THE CONCLUSIONS.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD REVISE THE REPORT BY FEBRUARY 15 SO THAT THE FINAL VERSION COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE MSAC ON THE LAST DAY OF ITS FEB.

13-15 MEETING. THIS IN FACT WAS DONE.

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4. MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

THE SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING OF THE WP WAS DEVOTED
PRIMARILY TO A DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARIAT PAPER
"A MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER
POLICIES" (MAS(78)2. WP MEMBERS INCLUDING THE U.S.
GENERALLY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE DOCUMENT'S
ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND POLICY CONCLUSIONS. THE U.S.
DELEGATION SUBMITTED DETAILED WRITTEN COMMENTS. IN
ADDITION TO SUGGESTING SPECIFIC FACTUAL CORRECTIONS AND
RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE ANALYSIS,
THE U.S. DELEGATION MADE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CRITI-
CISMS OF THE PAPER: (1) THE PAPER IN SEVERAL PLACES
IS TOO NEGATIVE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF SELECTIVE
EMPLOYMENT POLICIES TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT OR TO
COUNTER INFLATION; (2) THE PAPER'S CHARACTERIZATION
OF RESTRICTIVE DEMAND MANAGEMENT POLICY AS INTENDED TO
CAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT MISREPRESENTS THE PURPOSE OF SUCH
POLICIES. IN THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, THE U.S. DELEGA-
TION NOTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC
RECORD OF THE U.S. IN 1977 AND THE GROWING IMPORTANCE
OF SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES IN THE U.S. POLICY MIX.
5. WP ALSO DISCUSSED SECRETARIAT PLANS FOR DISSEMINAT-
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ING THE RESULTS OF THE INVENTORY OF EMPLOYMENT AND
MANPOWER MEASURES TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND TO UPDATE
THE INVENTORY LATER THIS YEAR.
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